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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: JANUARY 21, 2002 – 0348 HOURS  
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: JANUARY 20, 2002 – 1515 HOURS  
NATURE OF CALL: LOST/INJURED SNOWBOARDER  
LOCATION OF CALL: SUGAR BOWL SKI RESORT  
CASE NUMBER: S0-1159  
RELEASED BY: SGT. M. HARRIS

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

A group of ten students from Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo) went snowboarding at sugar bowl ski resort. Three of the group, Scott Gullick 21, Melissa Coulson 21, and Joshua Arbenz 22, separated from the others to snowboard by themselves.

They proceeded off the backside of Mount Lincoln and became disoriented. The terrain became extremely steep resulting in the subjects removing their snowboards and attempting to traverse the slope. They were unsuccessful. Not realizing how steep the slope was, Arbenz decided to sit down and slide to the bottom of the hill. Arbenz lost control and tumbled down a 200-foot drop injuring his back and neck. All three subjects had portable walkie-talkies and were able to communicate with other members of their party and summons the resort ski patrol.

Members of the sugar bowl ski patrol, the placer county sheriff's search & rescue mountain rescue team, CHP helicopter h-20, Calstar 3, the US Forest Service, and the local fire department worked in concert to rescue the snowboarders. The ski patrol personnel transported Gullick and Coulson out of the area by snowmobile. The ski patrol and the sheriff's mountain rescue team were able to locate and lower Arbenz to the covered rail road tracks approximately 400 feet below where he fell. Calstar landed and loaded Arbenz who was transported to Washoe medical center for treatment. His condition is not known at this time.

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